

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AMARILLO DIVISION

JAMES BUTLER,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF TEXAS EMPLOYEE, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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2:21-CV-232-Z-BR

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
TO DISMISS § 1983 CLAIM

Plaintiff Michael Contreras tendered to this Court a pleading attempting to initiate a civil proceeding under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (ECF 1). Plaintiff did not submit with his pleading any payment to satisfy the requisite fee though he did submit an Application to Proceed *in Forma Pauperis*. (ECF 2). At the time of filing, Plaintiff was incarcerated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (“TDCJ”).

When this matter came before the Court for screening, TDCJ records indicated Plaintiff was no longer in custody there. For that reason, on December 8, 2022, the Court issued an Order notifying Plaintiff that it was his responsibility to maintain current contact information with the Court and requiring him to indicate an intention to proceed with this case on or before December 23, 2022. (ECF 10). Plaintiff has not renewed his application to proceed *in forma pauperis* since his release from custody, nor informed the Court of his current financial status since his release or updated his mailing address since his release.

As of this date, Plaintiff has not only failed to respond to the Court’s Order but also has not attempted to communicate with the Court in any way. The Court has given Plaintiff ample

opportunity to comply with its Order, yet Plaintiff has failed to follow the Court's direct orders. Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with the federal rules or any court order. *Larson v. Scott*, 157 F.3d 1030, 1031 (5th Cir. 1988); *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 41. "This authority [under Rule 41(b)] flows from the court's inherent power to control its docket and prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases." *Boudwin v. Graystone Ins. Co.*, 756 F.2d 399, 401 (5th Cir. 1985) (citing *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 82 S. Ct. 1386 (1962)). The undersigned finds Plaintiff's failure to comply with this Court's December 8, 2022 Order warrants dismissal.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the RECOMMENDATION of the United States Magistrate Judge to the United States District Judge that the Complaint (ECF 1) filed by Plaintiff James Butler be DISMISSED.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE

The United States District Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation to each party by the most efficient means available.

IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.

ENTERED December 30, 2022.


LEE ANN RENO
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

*** NOTICE OF RIGHT TO OBJECT ***

Any party may object to these proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation. In the event parties wish to object, they are hereby NOTIFIED that the deadline for filing objections is fourteen (14) days from the date of filing as indicated by the “entered” date directly above the signature line. Service is complete upon mailing, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(C), or transmission by electronic means, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(E). Any objections must be filed on or before the fourteenth (14th) day after this recommendation is filed as indicated by the “entered” date. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(d).

Any such objections shall be made in a written pleading entitled “Objections to the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation.” Objecting parties shall file the written objections with the United States District Clerk and serve a copy of such objections on all other parties. A party’s failure to timely file written objections shall bar an aggrieved party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual findings, legal conclusions, and recommendation set forth by the Magistrate Judge and accepted by the district court. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass’n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428–29 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc), *superseded by statute on other grounds*, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), *as recognized in ACS Recovery Servs., Inc. v. Griffin*, 676 F.3d 512, 521 n.5 (5th Cir. 2012); *Rodriguez v. Bowen*, 857 F.2d 275, 276–77 (5th Cir. 1988).